



NEWS RELEASE

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City of Bucklin Approved For USDA Rural Development Water Project Funding

\$21.8 Million Awarded to 19 Kansas Communities During FY06

Bucklin, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks announced today during a check presentation ceremony in Bucklin that the Agency has approved \$770,000 in final funding for the City's upgrade of their public water system. USDA Rural Development also provided funding last fiscal year for the improvements to the City's water system in the amount of \$1,749,985 for the first phase of the upgrade.

"USDA Rural Development's *Water & Waste Disposal Program* is one of the most important community and economic development efforts this Agency administers. These USDA funds, combined with the Agency's technical assistance which supports local leadership, helps make these critically needed services a reality. It is important that rural Kansans keep pace with their basic need to have access to safe and reliable water sources. This valuable USDA program promotes economic growth and enhances the quality of life for the area residents served by these projects and all of Kansas," commented State Director Banks.

Phase #2 of the project will consist of re-drilling Well No. 6, adding chlorination units to the City's wells and installing water lines. Upon the completion of the project, the community will replace 52,000 linear feet of water line throughout the town, re-plumb two other wells, replace several fire hydrants, and repair the municipal water tower.

Following the check presentation, State Director Banks and USDA staff participated in a tour of Bucklin to review the community's infrastructure and housing needs.

USDA Rural Development has invested \$21,818,552 for Fiscal Year 2006 benefiting nineteen Kansas communities. The approved funding, split between \$14,968,400 in loans and \$6,850,152 in grants, will support the construction and/or completion of the important infrastructure projects that will provide long-term economic and health benefits to over 12,100 Kansans throughout the State.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life of the State's rural residents. The Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, interested parties may call the Agency's Hays area office at 785-628-3081 (extension 4), the state headquarters in Topeka at 785-271-2700 or log onto the Kansas USDA Rural Development website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.*

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